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REFORMER

charges, but the only effect of this letter, which appeared in "L'Aurore," was to induce the three handwriting experts, Belhomme, Varinard, and Couard, to bring an action against the novelist claiming damages for libel. On January 22 the conduct of the military authorities in shirking Zola's principal accusations was raised in the Chamber of Deputies, * and wild uproar and fighting ensued until order was restored by the military guard. *Two* days later Count von Bulow, the German Foreign Secretary, declared in the Kelchstag: "Between Captain Dreyfus and any German organs or authorities, no relations of whatever kind have ever existed." The Italian and Austrian governments made similar declarations ; but nothing could check the folly of the French Militarists, or even of the Government, which well knew through the diplomatic agents of France abroad that in every court and chancellery of Europe Dreyfus was regarded as innocent and Esterhazy believed to be guilty. The foreign press shared that view, and expressions and testimonials of sympathy began to reach Zola from all parts of the world.² He received them gratefully; but could the sympathy of foreigners afford adequate solace when four out of every six Parisians were covering him with mud ? Besides, that very sympathy led to yet more virulent attacks on him. It was fitting, said his enemies, that he should be

¹ The discussion was originally raised "by M. Cavaignac, one of the evil geniuses of the Republican party, *apropos* of an alleged confession made by Dreyfus to an officer of gendarmerie, but M. Jaures, the Socialist leader, profited by the opportunity to bring forward the prosecution of Zola.

³ Mr. David Christie Murray, the novelist, gave a very interesting lecture on the *bordereau* at the Egyptian Hall in London, generously placed at his disposal by Mr. Maskelyne. In the course of his remarks Mr. Murray strongly praised Zola's attitude, pointing out that after toiling through poverty, privation, and obloquy, to fame and wealth, he braved imprisonment and ruin out of pure pity and love of justice.